

In the Court of Appeals of the State of Alaska

Christopher D. Strawn,
Appellant,

v.

State of Alaska,
Appellee.

Court of Appeals No. **A-13237**

Order

Extend Time to File Brief

Date of Order: **June 10, 2020**

Trial Court Case No. **1JU-15-01125CR**

The Appellant, Christopher D. Strawn, represents himself in this appeal. He has recently filed a fourth request for an extension of time to file his opening brief, asking for an additional six months. He basically asserts that the procedures put in place as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic made it impossible for him to file his brief by May 4, 2020. This Court has already, over the victim's objection, granted Mr. Strawn extensions of approximately sixteen months. Although the Court noted that in its experience, self-represented appellants often received numerous extensions of time, the Court also warned Mr. Strawn, when it granted his third extension request, that he risked having his appeal dismissed for failing to prosecute it. That warning, however, was issued before COVID-19 became a public health issue. The Court now finds that the COVID-19 pandemic constitutes extraordinary circumstances justifying an additional continuance. However, the Court again warns Mr. Strawn that he remains at risk of having his appeal dismissed for failure to prosecute. The Court also encourages Mr. Strawn to reconsider his decision to represent himself now that he has experienced the extreme difficulties of doing so.

Accordingly, **IT IS ORDERED:**

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Mr. Strawn's motion for a six-month extension of time to file his opening brief is **GRANTED in part**. Mr. Strawn's opening brief is now due on or before September 30, 2020.

Entered under the authority of Chief Judge Allard.

Clerk of the Appellate Courts



Ryan Montgomery-Sythe,
Chief Deputy Clerk

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